

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2018  
6:30 PM  
City Council Chambers, City Hall  
45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, CT**

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session to order at 6:38 p.m.

**ROLL CALL.**

The Assistant City Clerk, Frances Ortiz called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack Banta  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Thomas McCarthy, Jeanette Herron  
134<sup>th</sup> District:  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Karen Jackson  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

John Marshall Lee  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Finances.

Mr. Lee came forward and read the following statement into the record:

Good evening City Council representatives.

This morning we awakened to a late spring season snow storm. And by this evening most of the evidence from Mother Nature has disappeared courtesy of the temperature. Thanks to the Public Works people, we have not been trapped in snow blocked and frozen conditions this year. I do offer thanks to those responsible for public service and it is genuine. But it always needs to be earned.

Failing in one's task is not fatal, usually. Often there is learning that follows. In the case of Mayor Ganim's first term, the opportunity for him to advantage himself at the expense of the community cost good city governance for years after. He faced trial for his felonies and was found guilty. College and law school had provided him with seven years of education earlier in his life. Now the Federal government caused him to attend an institution for seven more years. His present and future freedoms were limited. What education did he receive behind bars? Has he told you? Has he ever come clean with us as people of Bridgeport? Or did he merely share a private moment with a community of faith that believed in "second chances" with the rest was to become history?

Just asking, because in the more than two years since, the most consistent action has been to avoid meaningful management of city business and finances....growing the Grand List (wrong direction) and controlling the budget (borrowing, re-borrowing without present value profit, and one time asset sales, for less than full value, ghost expenses, his former playbook?). Our Mayor has been so bored that in presenting the 2017 and 2018 budgets, he missed identifying and reporting priorities for which he would be accountable. Am I wrong? Will that change today?

A "second chance" to primary and then run for Mayor, he won with a promise to STOP RAISING TAXES. Once in office, he complained about a large Finch deficit, but dealt with it summarily with a large 29% increase and no consequences to those guilty of illegal acts. The public safety budgets have increased at a rate higher than other City departments and though 100 officers have been added, overtime continues to be poorly managed internally. There is an acting Chief with professional schooling less than others in the current department, but they did not drive for the first Mayor Ganim when he went off the track and wandered into felony land.

Ganim2 has not taken the actions necessary to streamline governance in boards and commissions though the opportunity is fully available. Two years wasted, and one political appointee assigned to those responsibilities with little to show for his compensation and position. How about the other political appointees? We compensate them. What do they do as public servants? Is it unreasonable to ask?

Funding our school system with more than 21,000 youth, the major location where citizens look for program excellence, has been practically ignored by the Mayor for two years. Meetings with education representatives bring little or no energy or resources to the system. How long will Ganim2 ignore the youth in our schools? How long will parents and the community at large allow him to continue this neglect?

Public housing is meant to serve over 5,000 units in the City. To the extent that vouchers support residences in private units monitored by City Code Enforcement with powers to get compliance, there may be some light in the tunnel. But over 2500 units are subject to Park City Communities management with a Commission that has inadequate tools to monitor accountability of the compensated PCC employees to perform their HUD tasks timely, accurately and with respect for our fellow citizens.

I am not a prophet, but an observer, who compares and contrasts, different behaviors and activities at different times in various contexts. I try to be fact based. The Council passed

an ordinance asking all elected City officers as well as those appointed by Mayor to Boards and Commissions to sign with Town Clerk annually before January 31 with proof as to residence. Council members did well with 16 of 20 registered, but only 8 others from over 150 parties have complied. These include the Mayor, City Clerk and Town Clerk. Boards and commissions? Nada....follow through...."second chance" to get it right? And if you do not? Time will tell.

*Council Member Lyons joined the meeting.*

**Gemeem Davis**

Anti-Corruption Resolution.

Bridgeport Generation Now  
1115 Main Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Ms. Davis came forward and made the following statement into the record:

Good evening everyone, my name is Gemeem Davis. I live at 1115 Main St. in Bridgeport CT. I would like all my friends who are here about anti-corruption to please stand up.

(Approximately 20 people in the audience stood up holding signs.)

Also I have a petition that I would like to present to Council Member Spain.

As I said my name is Gemeem Davis and I was born and raised here in Bridgeport and I am a Board member of the Bridgeport generation now. Thank you all for your time and your service to Bridgeport. I trust that you are all working to the best of your ability on behalf of the city. That said, we are all here because we love and care about Bridgeport. We are also here because our city has a problem. The problem was not created by one individual, group or political party and cannot be solved by rogue isolated efforts. It is going to take an all hands on deck approach to solve.

It is time for our Executive branch, the Council, the community, and ordinary citizens to come together, to work together to rid our city of the stain of political corruption. It is our right and our responsibility as stewards of democracy to do so. Corruption is the misuse of public power by an elected official or an appointed civil servant for personal gain. People abandon standard and laws for their own benefit. It might start out on an individual level, but over time, it becomes entrenched in the behaviors, habits or procedures of an entire locality, be that the city, the state or a country.

We know that there is a system of entrenched corruption in Bridgeport that goes back generations. It is why people are cynical about our government, voter turnout is low, and civic engagement is poor. As a result the hard working people of Bridgeport are denied equity and the power to access resources for the greater good. For this reason, and this reason only, is the reason that we formed Bridgeport United Against Corruption and we are asking you, our City Council, to stand with us and pass an anti-corruption resolution.

This resolution raises public awareness and makes a strong commitment towards fixing the problem. It is only the beginning.

Bridgeport United Against Corruption advocates for a functioning ethics commission, free and fair elections, open primaries and early voting, an independent financial task force, stronger repercussions for election violations and eliminating absentee ballot abuse. Because Bridgeport is not the only municipality in the country with corruption challenges, we have formed a partnership with a national organization to represent us in order to move forward and address federal anti-corruption issues as well.

You know, there is an old saying, "Don't talk about it, be about it. ". It is time for us to be about our business and take a strong stand against corruption and for good government, transparency, fairness and equity. We know there is no short-term fix to our challenges. We are committed to the long haul, ready and willing, with open minds and open hearts, to move this work forward and our city forward.

So we ask you to pass the anti-corruption resolution. The time is now for Bridgeport to move, so power to the people. Thank you.

*Council Member Herron joined the meeting.*

**Ethan Book**  
144 Coleman Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

The Secularization of  
Government.

Council President, members of the City Council and public;

I am Ethan Book, resident in the Hollow section of Bridgeport and an active Republican.

In early 2012, I wrote an article entitled, "The Secularization of Government". Following the Sandy Hook school shooting crisis of December 2013, the article became more relevant. In a March meeting of 2014, I publicly distributed it to the full Council.

The article begins by discussing the issue of the existence of a systematic bias in our courts and the need for judicial reform. I mention a statement made by Thomas Jefferson in 1802:

I believe the banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than the standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property – until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.

Isn't that statement even more relevant now with public attention to our own WPCA crisis?

The process of the secularization of government took some big step forward in 1913 with three important events: (1) the ratification of the 16th amendment (that amendment which gave the federal government the right to impose income taxes during peacetime), (2) the ratification of the 17th amendment (which shifted the election of our U.S. senators from state legislators to the

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general public, a step which some proclaimed to give more rights to the public but, in reality, for the fact that the public opinion was so much influenced by the major media, which had substantial influence in Congress, the action was actually a centralization of federal power over the states), and (3) the Congressional approval of the federal reserve banking act (that act which gave the regulation of a national currency to an agency which sounds to be a federal agency but, in actuality, established an entity which is fully owned by a cartel of large banks including several European banks). All three federal steps were either in violation of our original constitution or were contrary to the original intent of our founding fathers. These steps have opened the door to other erosions of our Constitution.

the process of such secularization took a major step forward with the 1947 Supreme Court case of Everson versus Board of Education [330 U.S. 1, 18]. In that, the High Court attempted to lift from the First Amendment, the concept of the separation of church and state. However, the manner that the supreme attempted to do this was wholly contrary to both the letter and the original intent of the First Amendment. The religious application of the First Amendment was solely intended to prohibit states from mandating a particular denomination. This error of the High Court is a showcase example of judicial activism, that is where judges acts as legislators.

The process took two more major steps forward with the 1962 Supreme Court decision of Engle versus Vitae which sought to ban prayer in public schools and the 1963 Supreme Court decision of the Abington versus Schemp, the decision which sought to prohibit the official use of the Bible in public schools. And the list goes on!

n 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower (a native of Abilene, Kansas, the hometown of my father), spoke in Washington D. C. Before the national conference on the spiritual foundations of American democracy saying,

And no matter what Democracy tries to do in terms of the individual liberty...when you come back to it, there is just one thing...Man is worthwhile because he was born in the image of God.

The book Original Intent by David Barton gives five graphs which depict the changes in several categories of statistics which deal with public morality, violent crime, educational achievement and family stability. The statistics cover the period from the 1950s through the 1990s. The graphs show marked trends of deterioration from 1963, the year of the Supreme Court decision of Abington versus Schempp. These graphs are part of my article which I provide together with a hard copy of these comments.

Since 2013, school shootings have not only continued. They have increased in frequency.

With respect to mass shootings, I have never said that there should not be reasonable gun regulation. However I have consistently said that the public and our elected officials need to consider more carefully what appears to be an effort to this problem of the process of the secularization of government.

I thank you for your attention! May God bless the city of Bridgeport, the state of Connecticut and our great nation!

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*Council Member Roman-Christy joined the meeting.*

**Dasha Spell**  
284 Beechwood Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Youth and Education.

Ms. Spell came forward to greet the Council. She stated her name and address for the record.

Ms. Spell said that she was present not only as a parent but an advocate. She said that she appreciated the Bridgeport Generation Now. She said that she was organizing a new group that would work with young adults in housing, mental health and education. It is vital to show the youth that the adults do care by being a role model. She was asking the Council, the Mayor's Office to come out and support the youth. She said that there would be a resource meeting on Thursday. People have been talking about this, but now is the time to step up. Now it is time for the men to step forward. Ms. Spell said that she would be sending out an email to the Council.

**Steven Auerbach**  
Kennedy Drive  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Sacred Heart University – 151  
Quality of Life.

Council President Nieves called Mr. Auerbach's name. There was no response. She called it two more times. There was no response.

*Council Member N. Smith joined the meeting.*

**Cecil C. Young**  
99 Carroll Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Dr. Martin Luther King.

Mr. Young came forward and greeted the Council. Mr. Young He stated his name and address for the record. He displayed a Bible and said that everything he was about to say was the truth. He then said that Ms. Janene Hawkins, the head of the Labor Relations Department, had sent a letter to the U.S. Attorney's Office, asking them to close the file and this is a lie. He said that it troubles him that he had come before the Council to ask for justice.

*Council Member Martinez joined the meeting.*

**Clyde Nicholson**  
54 Wallace Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Mr. Clyde Nicholson came forward to speak about the students walking to school and how the sidewalks were not shoveled. He said that this was wrong and the students were walking in the street. The students in Fairfield have parents that drive them to schools or have their own cars. He said that if he put his child outside for 30 minutes when the temperatures were around zero, he would be arrested.

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Mr. Nicholson then spoke about the WPCA and said that he had never heard of the gas company or the electric company putting someone out of their home because they did not pay their bill. He said that the City Attorney should be fired for allowing the cases to be sent out to other attorneys. This is a violation and they should have been put in jail. He then wondered what the City Attorney's had on the Mayor because it is clear to him that the City Attorneys run the City.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council President Nieves closed the public speaking portion at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2018**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

Mayor Ganim called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Council Member McBride-Lee was then asked to lead those present in prayer. Following the conclusion of her prayer, there was a request for a moment of silence for City Clerk Lydia Martinez's family following the death of her son and for the Holloway family in the loss of one of their loved ones.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ganim then led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The Assistant City Clerk called the roll.

130<sup>th</sup> District: Christina Smith, Pete Spain  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Denese Taylor-Moye, Jack Banta  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Marcus Brown, Kyle Langan  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Jeanette Herron, Thomas McCarthy  
134<sup>th</sup> District: Michelle Lyons,  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Alfredo Castillo, Maria Zambrano Viggiano  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Karen Jackson, Nessah Smith  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Ernest Newton

A quorum was present.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: March 5, 2018**



**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED THE MARCH 5, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 5, 2018 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Ganim then read the following letter into the record and submitted it to the City Clerk:

April 2, 2018

Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am pleased to submit to the City Council the General Fund Budget for FY 18–19. This budget funds all essential city services, while proposing a spending cut of approximately 6 million compared to the current FY 17–18 budget. This budget also funds 100 new police recruits, 46 new fire recruits, and once again holds the line on real property taxes.

As you know, the City's budget is very much reliant on the amount of aid that we receive from the State. Unfortunately, we received far less state aid this fiscal year than we had anticipated under the Governor's Proposed Budget. My administration has been working diligently to make up for the shortfall in revenue through spending controls and holding back on the filling of vacancies. We are also working closely with the members of our legislative delegation to secure supplemental motor vehicle tax reimbursement money owed to the City by State OPM.

The budget passed by the General Assembly anticipates further cuts the city of Bridgeport for FY 18–19, especially to the Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax reimbursements. In light of the recent announcement that Hartford will be receiving a significant increase in State aid and \$550 million in bond obligation relief, I will be working with our legislators to ask for an increase in state aid for the City of Bridgeport as part of a package to provide relief to all of Connecticut cities.

Thankfully, the budget does include an additional appropriation of \$1.15 million to the Bridgeport Board of Education, which is reflected in this budget as an increase in ECS. And, this budget includes an appropriation increase of approximately \$1.7 million for the Library as a result of last year's local referendum. While I'm against supporting any increase in property taxes to fund this .3 mill increased to the library, the Council will have the opportunity as part of this budgeting process to decide how this increase ought to be funded.

I look forward to working with you over the coming months as we advocate for our city's priorities and finalize the FY 18–19 budget.

Respectfully,

Joseph P Ganim  
Mayor

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Council Member Newton requested that Consent Agenda Item 03-17 be removed. Mayor Ganim explained that the Council had not yet reached the Consent Calendar.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**73-17 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed General Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.**

**74-17 Communication from Tax Collector re: Proposed Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2018, referred to Contracts Committee.**

**75-17 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Professional Services Agreement for the City's Master Plan, referred to Contracts Committee.**

**76-17 Communication from Mayor & Co-Sponsor(s): E. Newton & E. Martinez re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.12 – Equal Opportunity Requirements for Contractors, amend Section 3.12.130 – Minority Business Enterprise Program, referred to Ordinance Committee.**

**77-17 Communication from OPED re: (Ref. #396-93; 130-95; 279-98; 154-13 & 168-14) Proposed Amendment #6 to the West End Municipal Development Plan and Authorizing the Transfer and Redevelopment of 340 Cherry Street and 1565 Railroad Avenue and Request to Order a Public Hearing Relative to the Same, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:**

**70-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle & Nieves re: Proposed request that the intersection at Jane and Brooks Street be designated an "All-Way-Stop" with appropriate signage, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**71-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Valle & Nieves re: Proposed request that proper signage be installed in the area of Putnam and Brooks Street warning pet owners to properly clean-up pet waste or face a \$150.00 fine under Ordinance Section 6.04.040, referred to Board of Police Commissioners.**

**72-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Martinez & Co-Sponsor(s): Brown, Langan, Newton, Roman-Christy, Spain & Herron re: Proposed resolution regarding 180 Day Moratorium on WPCA Foreclosures, referred to Ordinance Committee.**

**78-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Spain & Co-Sponsor(s): Brown, Langan, Martinez & Jackson re: Proposed resolution requesting the State and Congressional Delegation to support and establish anti-corruption legislation, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO COMBINE THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES, THE PETITIONS TO**

**BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AND THE RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. FOR APPROVAL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*69-17 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Engineering Services Agreement for On-Call Airport Consulting regarding Sikorsky Memorial Airport.**

**\*03-17 (B) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of City-Owned Property located at 347 Wilmot Avenue by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.**

**\*53-17 Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for Historic Restoration Fund Grant.**

**\*61-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Proposed Resolution requesting the Creation of an Ad Hoc Casino Committee referral to Economic and Community and Development Committee.**

**\*64-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – Lereta Mortgage.**

**\*65-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – Santa Lucia Ralph & Pamela C/O Trustee.**

**\*66-17 Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Refund of Excess Payments – Sportech.**

**\*67-17 Budget and Appropriations Committee Report re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Refund Certain General Obligation Bonds (Series 2018A).**

Mayor Ganim announced that the Council was now considering the Consent Calendar and requested anyone who wished to remove an item to raise their hand.

Council Member Spain requested that Agenda Item 69-17 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

Council Member Brown requested that there be a vote to reconsider the Communications to be Referred to Committee and the Resolutions to be referred to Boards and Commissions, as he wished to remove Agenda Item 72-17 from the list.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION TO COMBINE THE COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES, THE**

**PETITIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AND THE RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. FOR APPROVAL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Mayor asked Council Member Brown if they could hold the item to the end. Council Member Brown said that it should be dealt with right then.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES AS PURSUANT TO SECTION 23 OF THE CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE AND SECTION 1-25C OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES AND WISHED TO REMOVE AGENDA ITEM 72-17 FROM THE REFERRALS TO COMMITTEE AND SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM, WHICH RESOLUTION WOULD ESTABLISH AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON WPCA FORECLOSURES.**

Council Member Brown noted for the record that Council Member Roman-Christy had asked to be removed as a co-sponsor. Council Member Roman-Christy confirmed that this was so.

Council Member Brown then read Chapter 5, Section 5(d) of the Bridgeport City Charter into the record.

“No vote shall be taken upon any ordinance, resolution or other measure in the city council until the same shall have been referred to and reported upon by an appropriate committee. A matter may be considered without being referred to a committee if the city council determines, by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, that an emergency exists which requires immediate action on the matter.”

Council Member Brown stated that an emergency exists due to the practices of the WPCA and the welfare of the Bridgeport residents, as well as the security of their homes. He said that the reason the ordinance was being proposed was to give the Ordinance Committee time to amend the following:

- 1) establish a threshold amount for foreclosure;
- 2) establish a procedural plan for payments and charges for foreclosure proceedings; and
- 3) curtailing the use of outside counsel by the WPCA in foreclosures.

Council Member Brown stated that all of these items were incorporated in Agenda Item 57-17 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.04 – Utilities, amend Section 13.04.080 – Collection of Past Due Accounts and Late Payment Penalties, which will be discussed at an Ordinance Committee Public Hearing in the near future. He added that the Ordinance Committee was looking to change both 55-17 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.04 – Utilities, amend Section 13.04.040 – Board of Directors, Subsection (A); and 56-17 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.04 – Utilities, amend Section 13.04.050 – Terms of Office.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN SECONDED.**

Council Member Langan then spoke about his reasons for support for these items for the community and the welfare of their neighbors. He said that the Committee and the WPCA and other departments must work together to find the best possible solution to keep their neighbors secure in their homes. It will be important to have all the information in order to make the best possible decision. The City Attorney's Office reported to the Committee that their investigation shed no light on any wrong doing on cases related to the WPCA tax collection. This is to be expected as it would be a conflict of interest for the attorneys to say that the counsel they appointed was engaged in any illegal practices. This is to be expected from a department that is expected to protect the City from a potential suit. He said that it was his expectation that the City Attorneys would be accurate and honest. Council Member Langan said that it was his job as a legislator to remain skeptical.

He added that he had questions regarding the January 19th meeting regarding the gold standard remediation program that would cost over \$1.4 million for over 6,000 cases. He said that this seemed to be an expensive program until he considered his neighbors who have lost their homes. It was also stated at that meeting that in 1997 and 1998, there was also approximately \$23 million dollars in outstanding taxes. He said that when compared to the \$1.4 million cost, the \$1.4 million does not seem so expensive.

Council Member Langan then asked what the WPCA makes annually. He then read the WPCA figures from the CAFR and said that \$1.4 million seems small, particularly when it comes to vulnerable senior residents living on fixed incomes.

Council Member Langan then spoke about generating contracts for the collection services and wondered why this was. He mentioned the historical context of segregation housing discrimination; discriminatory zoning policies, exorbitant tax levies and predatory lending practices. He said that he believed that the Council could work towards resolving this, but had many questions towards that end. He questions why the mediation program is not considered while the practice of engaging third party attorneys was. This process should be brought closer to home. A moratorium would help towards getting these questions answered. He encouraged his fellow Council Members to vote for the measure in order to move the item forward.

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano said that she knew there was wide spread support among the Council for the measure. She pointed out that under the rules, any action taken on the item would place the Council in violation of the law since a public hearing needs to be held first.

Mayor Ganim pointed out that he had consulted with the City Attorney and the motion to take action on the ordinance would require a 2/3rd vote of the Council. A public hearing is required before action is taken.

Council Member Brown said that it was a resolution, not an ordinance, which he said he had stated earlier. He said that the bare minimum would be to make a phone call and ask questions. It will be important to ask questions and come up with solutions while debating the merits of the proposal.

Council Member Taylor-Moye pointed out that the WPCA has been a problem for a very long time. However, the Council needs to have a public hearing, otherwise the Council is in violation. It is important to do this right. Everyone present at this meeting knows that there has been a problem with the WPCA for a long time and everyone is aware of what is happening now. Everyone knows what needs to be done, so it needs to be done correctly. Everyone's questions should be answered. She pointed out that as Co-chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, she does not know what will happen with the budget, but it important to follow the procedures. Both the State and Federal Governments has input about the WPCA, so it is important to do this right. Remember that State and Federal Governments will be taking actions on whatever is done by the Council at this meeting. The City needs a solution, but putting a moratorium on the WPCA may not be that solution. She added that she wants to do this the right way and be sure that her constituents and the other residents of Bridgeport do not continue to suffer under this system if this gets defeated because something wasn't done correctly.

Council Member Zambrano Viggiano reiterated that the Council does support the measure and is not trying to stop the resolution from moving forward or hurting the taxpayers. Her concern was that this was not something that she was expecting to vote on at this meeting. There should have been some kind of advanced notice.

Council Member Herron said that she had been advocating for a WPCA moratorium for years and being told to ask questions, she had some serious ones, such as what would be the immediate effects after the imposition of the moratorium. She said that this needed to be done correctly in order to protect everyone. While she is listed as a co-sponsor, the Council needs to follow the protocols. While she supports the moratorium, she needed more answers because her community is affected as well. Council Member Herron said that she had attended every Ordinance meeting except the last one.

Council Member Newton said that the Council was the legislative branch of the administration and they have the right to bring new pieces of legislation to the Council. However, Council Member Newton said that this was not an emergency. He added that he is the WPCA liaison. The top 100 accounts that owe the City of Bridgeport were mostly corporations. The Council has the right to do what they want. The Council Members hear the cries of their constituents. Before he was elected to the Council, Council Member Newton said that he attended the Ordinance Committee meetings and this is not a new issue.

[There were several on-going comments from the audience during Council Member Newton's remarks, rendering many of them inaudible.]

He asked if the tail was wagging the dog. There are reasons for people not wanting to do something, but people can't have it both ways. Constituents care about their needs. The reason for the moratorium is to establish due process. When the taxes are re-assessed and residents receive large tax bills, they will have a place to come to discuss their case. The residents don't have anyone that they can appeal to now. He appealed to his colleagues to move forward and schedule a public hearing.

[There were several on-going comments from the audience during Council Member Newton's remarks, rendering many of them inaudible.]

Council Member Newton stated that he felt that something should be done and that the Council has a right to do it.

Council Member Martinez said that the moratorium was only a temporary tactic to stall the foreclosures currently in process. She said that on February 18th, the following resolution was presented:

57-17 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.04 – Utilities, amend Section 13.04.080 – Collection of Past Due Accounts and Late Payment Penalties.

On March 27th, there was an Ordinance Committee meeting and the City attorneys were expected to give the Committee a legal opinion. They did not. As the Council Members are speaking, which they have a right to do, the Council needs to know what the solutions are. During these meetings the following agenda items were proposed:

55-17 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.04 – Utilities, amend Section 13.04.040 – Board of Directors, Subsection (A).

56-17 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.04 – Utilities, amend Section 13.04.050 – Terms of Office.

57-17 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.04 – Utilities, amend Section 13.04.080 – Collection of Past Due Accounts and Late Payment Penalties.

These items have proposed language provide recommendations to what should be in place regarding some type of WPCA procedure for foreclosures. She wanted to know what solutions were being offered. The City attorneys have not given the Committee the proper language for these items as they should have done. This issue first came up five years ago in 2013 and here the Council is, back with the same issue again.

Council Member McCarthy reminded everyone that the item that was before the Council was Item 72-17. He said that the item needs to be discussed and considered.

Mr. Clyde Nicholson who was seated in the audience had a number of people who were affected by the WPCA's actions stand up. Approximately 10 people did so.

Council Member Martinez reiterated her earlier point that this was only a temporary tactic to stall the foreclosures currently in Committee. She said that the intention was to work on the items that were in Committee and move them forward.

Council Member Spain said that this was an emergency resolution and the situation was a serious emergency. The more that he has heard about the WPCA's practices, the more that he was convinced that they need to address the WPCA issue after many years. Shame on anyone at the meeting who would not ask for fairness or justice or a time out for the issues to be resolved. He said that he was fortunate enough to be able to pay his bills, but others will not. However, the

bills will not increase because of a six-month moratorium. This will tell the WPCA that it is the Council that decides what is right and how due process should be handled in Bridgeport. While the Council invites the public input, in the meantime, there should be a break, a time out from what the Council Members have witnessed for years and years. The Council needs to get a hold on this process. Council Member Spain said that he was aware of Item # 57-17 which is to establish a threshold amount for foreclosures. He reiterated the details of the establishment of a payment plan without court costs and legal fees, and curtailing the use of outside counsel that Council Member Brown had said earlier in the meeting.

Council Member C. Smith said that she supported the idea of reviewing the WPCA and changing the foreclosure procedure, but was confused about the matter on the floor. She suggested that the Council schedule a public hearing within the coming week and then by the next Ordinance Committee meeting, the Committee can move forward.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that while she understood why the Committee wanted to have the moratorium, it is important to follow the procedure so that they don't have to go back and do the same thing all over again.

Mayor Ganim reiterated that the vote was for suspending the rules to allow for immediate consideration and would need the approval of 2/3rds of those present in order to pass. \

**\*\* THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AS PURSUANT TO SECTION 23 OF THE CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE AND SECTION 1-25C OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES AND WISHED TO REMOVE AGENDA ITEM 72-17 FROM THE REFERRALS TO COMMITTEE AND SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM, WHICH RESOLUTION WOULD ESTABLISH AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON WPCA FORECLOSURES PASSED WITH SIXTEEN (16) IN FAVOR (SMITH, SPAIN, BANTA, BROWN, LANGAN, HERRON, LYONS, MCBRIDE-LEE, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, SMITH, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON); TWO (2) AGAINST (TAYLOR-MOYE AND MCCARTHY) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (ROMAN-CHRISTY).**

The Mayor then directed everyone back to the Consent Calendar for approval. The Mayor reminded everyone that Council Member Spain had requested Agenda Item 69-17 to be removed. He asked if there were any other requests for removal. Council Member Langan requested that Agenda Item 61-17 be removed. Council Member Newton requested that Agenda Item 03-17 be removed.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE FOLLOWING REMAINING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*53-17 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR HISTORIC RESTORATION FUND GRANT.**



**\*64-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – LERETA MORTGAGE.**

**\*65-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – SANTA LUCIA RALPH & PAMELA C/O TRUSTEE.**

**\*66-17 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – SPORTECH.**

**\*67-17 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS – TO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (SERIES 2018A).**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*69-17 Contracts Committee Report re: Professional Engineering Services Agreement for On-Call Airport Consulting regarding Sikorsky Memorial Airport.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED THE ITEM.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

Council Member Spain said that he appreciated help in understanding the need for professional services at the airport. He asked if the professional engineering group had to be in place before the grant deadline of May 1st. Council Member Newton confirmed that this was so. Council Member Herron supplied additional details and said that the airport cannot move forward until this is approved.

Council Member Spain asked about the contractors who were on the short list. Council Member Newton replied that he had looked into this and everything has been done properly, above board and in order. Both the Airport Commission and the FAA have been satisfied.

Council Member Spain asked another question about the process. Council Member Newton said that the City attorneys have assured him that the airport must have this in place due to Federal guidelines or it will jeopardize the airport.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*03-17 (B) Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Disposition of City-Owned Property located at 347 Wilmot Avenue by Auction, Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VALLE MOVED TO SEND AGENDA ITEM 03-17 (B) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 347 WILMOT AVENUE BY AUCTION, SALE TO ABUTTER OR BY**

**SALE TO COMMUNITY BASED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS  
BACK TO COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*61-17                   Miscellaneous Matters Committee Report re: Proposed Resolution  
requesting the Creation of an Ad Hoc Casino Committee referral to Economic and  
Community and Development Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LANGAN MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 61-17  
FROM:**

**RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CREATE AN AD HOC CASINO  
COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, FEDERAL,  
STATE AND CITY OFFICIALS, AND PRIVATE CITIZENS AND  
STAKEHOLDERS, APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, THAT  
WOULD RESEARCH THE IMPACT OF CASINOS ON MUNICIPALITIES,  
BEST PRACTICES FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND  
CASINOS, AND ANY OTHER ISSUES THAT RELATE TO A CASINO  
PROJECT IN BRIDGEPORT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLACING THE CITY IN  
THE BEST POSSIBLE POSITION TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS THAT  
HAVE MOST BENEFIT FOR THE RESIDENTS;**

**TO:**

**“RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL WOULD RESEARCH THE  
IMPACT OF CASINOS ON MUNICIPALITIES, BEST PRACTICES FOR  
INTERACTION BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND CASINOS, AND ANY  
OTHER ISSUES THAT RELATE TO A CASINO PROJECT IN BRIDGEPORT  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLACING THE CITY IN THE BEST POSSIBLE  
POSITION TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS THAT HAVE MOST BENEFIT  
FOR THE RESIDENTS;**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN SECONDED.**

Council Member Langan said that in Committee he had discovered that the Council President cannot appoint City, State or Federal officials to a committee. He added that he also became aware that there was not a consensus at this time regarding the creation of a committee at the present time. He then gave a brief overview of the additional changes made to the item.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LANGAN MOVED TO REFER AGENDA ITEM 61-17 AS  
AMENDED TO THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND TO REPORT BACK TO  
THE FULL COUNCIL.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SPAIN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**72-17 Resolution presented by Council Member(s) Martinez & Co-Sponsor(s): Brown, Langan, Newton, ~~Roman-Christy~~, Spain & Herron re: Proposed resolution regarding 180 Day Moratorium on WPCA Foreclosures, referred to Ordinance Committee.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 72-17 TO INCLUDE:**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ANY AND ALL FORECLOSURES CURRENTLY PENDING IN THE SUPERIOR COURT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE MORATORIUM AND NO FURTHER ACTION SHALL BE TAKEN BY WPCA ATTORNEYS TO MOVE PENDING CASE OR CASES FURTHER IN THE SUPERIOR COURT.”**

Council Member Newton said that he wanted to know why this would have to go back to Ordinance Committee followed by having a special meeting of the City Council. The Mayor reviewed the process with him.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA ITEM 72-17 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON AGENDA ITEM 72-17 AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

Council Member McCarthy explained that the notice of the public hearing would have to be published at least three days before the hearing. He added that the Council would then have to have a special meeting for a vote on the item. Council Member McCarthy stated that a Special Council Meeting can be called by the Mayor and/or requested by three Council Members.

Council Member Newton said that he had witnessed a public hearing being held followed by the Council voting on the item. Assistant City Clerk Ortiz said that if they followed the public hearing with a Special Council meeting would require the police officer to serve a summons to every Council Member. Discussion followed about the details.

Council Member Langan said that the item was on the table for immediate consideration and that he did not think there was a need for a public hearing on the moratorium.

Council Member Newton reiterated that his question was based on the fact that he had witnessed a public hearing being held followed by the Council voting on the item.

Council Member Langan questioned the existence of the law regarding holding a public hearing.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON WITHDREW HIS MOTION REGARDING A PUBLIC HEARING.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

Council Member Newton then requested a roll call vote.

Council Member Langan said that he would like to know the exact reference to the law in the Charter that requires a public hearing. He said that Council Member Brown had referred to Chapter 5, Sec. 5d of the Charter and then read the following section of the into the record:

“No vote shall be taken upon any ordinance, resolution or other measure in the city council until the same shall have been referred to and reported upon by an appropriate committee. A matter may be considered without being referred to a committee if the city council determines, by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, that an emergency exists which requires immediate action on the matter.”

Council Member Langan repeated that he wanted the reference to the public hearing requirement if it even existed, which he did not believe that it did.

Atty. Anastasi pointed out that that there were two sections that addressed the issue. Chapter 5, Sec. 5d, which refers to immediate consideration and requires a 2/3rds vote and an emergent need requiring action. Atty. Anastasi then referred to Chapter 5, Section 9(d) of the Charter which reads:

“Emergency ordinances for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety may be passed, without a prior hearing at any regular meeting, special meeting or emergency meeting, provided, in the case of a special or emergency meeting, the subject thereof has been included in the notice for such meeting. An emergency ordinance shall contain a specific statement of the emergency. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present and voting shall be necessary for the adoption of an emergency ordinance.”

Council Member Spain asked why Attorney Anastasi was giving his personal opinion. Attorney Anastasi pointed out that the section of the Charter that Council Member Martinez was referring to was an amendment of Chapter 13, Section 04.

Council Member Spain asked for a point of personal privilege and asked why the Council was allowing the City Attorney to look for the ordinance reference on his iPhone. Mayor Ganim stated that he had requested that the Counsel to give his opinion.

Council President Nieves stated that if the Council Members wished to have a discussion about this item, they have to do so respectfully. If the City Attorney needs to look something up on his iPhone or in the book, the Council needs to give him that time to do so and it needs to be respectfully handled.

Council Member C. Smith said that the item would actually pass, and said that the fastest route to implementing this moratorium was to schedule the public hearing and then have the Council vote on it after that.

Council Member Newton said that the Council was not present to decide who was right or wrong, but was present to move things forward. Whether the moratorium was passed at this

meeting, or in three days or in a week, the Council was much closer to resolving the issue than before. People have been waiting a long time for this and the Council is arguing over a week's delay.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO SCHEDULE A COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AND TO ALSO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR ITEM 72-17 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

During the roll call vote, Council Member Langan stated the motion was too vague and did not know when the hearing would happen.

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR (SMITH, BANTA, TAYLOR-MOYE, BROWN, LANGAN, HERRON, MCCARTHY, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, ZAMBRANO VIGGIANO, CASTILLO, NIEVES, VALLE, JACKSON, SMITH, MARTINEZ, AND NEWTON); ONE (1) AGAINST (SPAIN) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LYONS).**

### ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service